Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, On May 2, 1989, the Hungarian government ordered to begin dismantling the 150-mile-long fence along the Austrian border making the first visible cracks in the Iron Curtain appear; and,

Whereas, The relatively open border with the West allowed for East Germans to escape to Austria, the largest break-out was the 'Pan-European Picnic' on August 19, 1989, when hundreds of East Germans rushed the border and escaped into Austria; and,

Whereas, On September 11, 1989, Hungary finally opened her borders for citizens of the German Democratic Republic; and,

Whereas, The decision of the Hungarian government had a domino effect and weeks later the Berlin Wall fell, the Velvet Revolution took place in Prague, the people of Rumania were rid of a cruel dictator during a bloody revolution, and a year later the Soviet Union ceased to exist; and,

Whereas, Almost every nation of the former Soviet Block decided to choose a democratic way of life; making it possible that 10 years later, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Poland would join the NATO; and,

Whereas, Most of the Central and Eastern European Nations are allies of the United States and proud members of the European Union:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2, 2009, as

HUNGARY DAY

in South Dakota, and I encourage all citizens to join in the celebration of this day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventeenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State